United Nations A/70/PV.2

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

2nd plenary meeting
Friday, 18 September 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Item 7 of the provisional agenda (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

First report of the General Committee (A/70/250)

The President: May I invite the General Assembly to direct its attention to section I of the report of the Committee. In that section, the General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 2.

May I request the General Assembly to now direct its attention to section II, entitled "Organization of the session", which contains a number of recommendations concerning the General Committee, the rationalization of work, the opening and closing dates for the session, the schedule of meetings, the general debate and the conduct of the meetings, and so on.

In paragraph 26, the General Committee draws to the attention of the Assembly the fact that the general debate will begin on Monday, 28 September, and recommends that it continue to Saturday, 3 October 2015.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the information contained in paragraph 26 and approves the recommendation that the general debate continue on Saturday, 3 October 2015?

It was so decided.

The President: All other recommendations in section II of the report of the Committee concern established practice, so rather than going through them one by one, I believe it would be beneficial to address all of these organizational matters concerning the General Assembly as a whole. There being no comments on that approach, we shall proceed accordingly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information and to approve all the recommendations of the General Committee contained in section II of the report?

It was so decided.

The President: Having just adopted the recommendation in paragraph 21, on waiving the requirements of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to declare a meeting open, I should like to encourage delegations to be present in the meeting rooms at the scheduled time in order to promote the punctuality and efficiency of the Assembly's proceedings.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 51 concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications?

It was so decided.

The President: May I now invite members to turn their attention to section III, dealing with the adoption of the agenda. The question of the allocation of items will be dealt with subsequently in section IV.

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In section III, the General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 62 to 67. In paragraph 68, in connection with item 41 of the draft agenda, entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading B, entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the General Assembly. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 69, in connection with item 64 of the draft agenda, entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Sassas da India", the General Committee decided to recommend that consideration of this item be deferred to the seventy-first session of the General Assembly and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 70, in connection with sub-item (b) of item 70 of the draft agenda, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading D, entitled "Promotion of human rights". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 71, in connection with sub-item (dd) of item 98 of the draft agenda, entitled "Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading G, entitled "Disarmament". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 72, in connection with item 169 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 73, in connection with item 170 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 74, in connection with item 171 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the International Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 75, in connection with item 172 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 76, in connection with item 173 of the draft agenda, entitled "Global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session. I also wish to pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Sam Kutesa, for his hard work in ensuring the success of the sixty-ninth session.

On behalf of my country's delegation, I wish to present a brief statement at the request of the representative of Turkey, to include a proposed

addendum in the agenda of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, specifically, on the "Global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers".

In the Syrian Arab Republic, we are deeply concerned indeed and saddened to see Syrians leaving our country, fleeing terrorism and seeking peace and security. We hope that without delay every single Syrian will be able to return to his or her home, village, school, university or job. We therefore welcome any sincere, real effort to deal with this issue. Nevertheless, this proposed agenda item presented by Turkey causes us to doubt and question what the concealed objectives of this proposal might actually be.

This crisis is due, above all, to the terrorism striking at the people of Syria and all their institutions. This terrorism has been created by the foreign interference in the political, military and economic spheres of Syrian life of countries that everybody knows, including Turkey. This interference has created, fuelled and spread the phenomenon of terrorism throughout Syria, the region and beyond, making it a universal scourge affecting the entire planet. It is a situation that has caused many Syrian citizens to escape crime and terror by leaving the country. Every day, the media broadcasts evidence of crimes that affect everyone through the disruption of infrastructure and services, which has destroyed the possibility for people to work or lead their normal daily lives. Punishment and unilateral action taken against Syria aggravate this tragic scenario, which is pushing Syrians to leave their motherland and making them fall victim to crime and criminal groups.

Turkey's policies are a major factor in the development of this phenomenon in Syria. The Turkish Government is responsible for this tragedy, as the Erdoğan Government has made no effort whatsoever to counter the terrorists and mercenaries. Rather, it has allowed them to enter Syria through Turkish territory to kill and destroy. The Turkish Government has spared no effort in supporting these military and terrorist groups, particularly Daesh, while also interfering directly in my country in order to assist them. There are many witnesses to this fact in Ain Al-Arab, Kobani, Aleppo and Kesab in Latakia, among others.

Daesh did not emerge in a vacuum. There are those who fuel it, assist it, finance it and help it commit all sorts of crimes, turning the Syrian people into the victims of all kinds of human exploitation. The first Government to act in this way was the Turkish regime. Not only has it stolen Syria's heritage, it also blew up 1,441 factories and laboratories in Aleppo. Turkey is taking advantage of the Syrian crisis to force people to leave the country and go elsewhere to create a crisis. Turkey is pushing the United States of America and Europe to establish a region that will fuel and harbour terrorism in the north of Syria.

Turkey's request makes this unethical objective clear. It is using the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul at the beginning of next year, to further its unethical agenda and it continues to put pressure on the Syrian regime by using it as a political weapon. My delegation asks the United Nations to put an end to the Erdoğan regime's exploitation of the Syrian crisis. We therefore call on the General Assembly to express its concern and be attentive with regard to the unethical, immoral objectives of that request.

In conclusion, the crisis of displaced Syrians is just one part of the larger Syrian crisis. The Governments responsible for fuelling this crisis have spared no effort in order to harm the Syrian people. From the very beginning, these Governments — including, unfortunately, some Arab Governments and other regional and international Governments — have tried to militarize the crisis, make it global in scale and use it as part of their agendas in the Security Council. Once this crisis was triggered, they resorted to using chemical weapons.

The President: I should like to remind members once again that we are currently considering organizational matters concerning the adoption of the provisional agenda and the allocation of items. At present, we are not discussing the substance of any item. Substantive aspects relating to an item included in the provisional agenda should be discussed during the scheduled plenary meeting debate on that item.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic): I will conclude, Mr. President.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

In a parallel fashion, these same Governments exploit the international community and the humanitarian situation in Syria as a political weapon in order to bring down the Syrian Government and open the doors to create disorder, which some see as a weapon to destroy my people's aspirations. These countries weep

for the displaced Syrian people, although they may be welcome in other host countries to further exploit the crisis.

(*spoke in English*)

I reserve my right to make another statement when we deal with the substantive part of the discussion.

Mr. Çevik (Turkey): My delegation was not planning to deliver a statement today as the General Assembly adopts the provisional agenda for the seventieth session, which is set to become a historic one in the course of the next few weeks. Unfortunately, I have had to take the floor in response to one delegation's baseless allegations, which are yet another attempt to divert attention from the enormous destruction, human suffering and forced displacement of millions of Syrians. But I will not go into detail.

With our proposal, which is under consideration today, we place our faith in the United Nations and its membership to increase its global awareness of the tragedies of hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants and refugees on the move in the Mediterranean Basin. We hope this initiative will enable the international community to discuss viable responses and solutions, which can be found through collective efforts undertaken through partnerships and solidarity.

This is not Turkey's agenda item per se. We have proposed it, but it is in our collective interests to consider this issue for humankind. The world is watching the United Nations and waiting for a response from the organ convened in this Hall.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 76 of the report?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to the agenda recommended by the General Committee in paragraph 77 of its report for adoption by the General Assembly, taking into account the decisions just adopted with respect to the draft agenda.

Bearing in mind that the agenda is organized under nine headings, we shall consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. I should like to remind members once again that, at present, we are not discussing the substance of any item.

Items 1 and 2 have already been dealt with. We shall now turn to items 3 to 8. May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, entitled "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the items listed under heading A are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to heading B, entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security". May I take it that the items listed under heading B are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

Mr. Samvelian (Armenia): As this is the first time the delegation of Armenia takes the floor at this session, let me begin by extending words of congratulation to you, Mr. President, upon your assumption of the presidency of the General Assembly and to assure you, Sir, of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the deliberations and work of the General Assembly.

I wish to state that Armenia dissociates itself from the consensus on including item 40 in the agenda of the seventieth session of the General Assembly. I kindly ask, through you, Mr. President, the Secretariat to duly reflect the Armenian position in the official records of this meeting.

The President: We take note of the statement by the representative of Armenia.

Next, we turn to heading C, entitled "Development of Africa". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: Now we come to heading D, entitled "Promotion of human rights". May I take it that the items listed under heading D are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: Heading E is entitled "Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts". May

I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: Next, we turn to heading F, entitled "Promotion of justice and international law". May I take it that the items listed under heading F are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: We now turn to heading G, entitled "Disarmament". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: Heading H is entitled "Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: Lastly, we turn to heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the items listed under heading I are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to section IV of the report of the General Committee, on the allocation of items.

The General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 78 to 80. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 80 concerning the granting of observer status?

It was so decided.

The President: We shall now turn to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 82 to 86. We shall take up the recommendations one by one. Before we proceed, may I remind members that the item numbers cited here refer to the agenda in paragraph 77 of the report before us, namely document A/70/250.

We shall now turn to paragraphs 82 (a) to (m), which relate to a number of plenary items. We turn first to paragraph 82 (m), which relates to item 130, entitled "Global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin, with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers".

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 82 (m)?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all the information that the General Committee wishes it to take note of and approve all the recommendations of the General Committee contained in paragraphs 82 (a) to (m)?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to paragraphs 83 (a) and (b), which relate to item 97, entitled "General and complete disarmament", and sub-item (dd) of item 97, entitled "Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability", for consideration by the First Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 83 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to paragraph 84, which relates to sub-item (b) of item 69, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", for consideration by the Third Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 84?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to paragraphs 85 (a) and (b), which relate to item 135, entitled "Programme planning", and item 143, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", for consideration by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 85 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to paragraphs 86 (a) to (d), which relate to item 169, entitled "Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly"; item 170 , entitled "Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly"; item 171, entitled "Observer status for the International

Civil Defence Organization in the General Assembly"; and item 172, entitled "Observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly", for consideration by the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 86 (a) to (d)?

It was so decided.

The President: We now turn to paragraph 87 of the report of the General Committee, on the allocation of items to the plenary and to each Main Committee.

We turn first to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting under all the relevant headings.

Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items listed for consideration directly in plenary meeting.

It was so decided.

The President: Next, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the First Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the First Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: We now turn to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)?

It was so decided.

The President: We come now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Second Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Third Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: Next, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Fifth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: Lastly, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Sixth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Sixth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee. I wish to thank all the members of the Assembly for their cooperation. Each Main Committee will receive the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

I would now like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the Holy See in its capacity as an observer State in the session and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolution 58/314, of 1 July 2004, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/871, the Holy See, in its capacity as an observer State, will participate in the work of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

I would also like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the State of Palestine, in its capacity as an observer State, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolutions 3237 (XXIX), of 22 November 1974; 43/177, of 15 December 1988; 52/250, of 7 July 1998; and 67/19, of 29 November 2012, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/52/1002, the State of Palestine, in its capacity as an observer State, will participate in the work of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

In addition, I would like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolution 65/276, of 3 May 2011, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/65/856, observers of the European Union will participate in the work of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.